

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

February 3, 2018

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Little Foxes* will be Feb. 15. Regular performances will be Feb. 16, 17, and 21 - 24. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on Feb. 18.

Times: All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinees begin at **2:00 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

NEW Box Office Hours: The box office will be staffed, and tickets can be picked up, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday beginning Feb. 5, and from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays during the run of the show. Additionally, box office volunteers will return phone calls regarding reservation requests during variable daytime hours Monday-Saturday.

Reservations: Reservations can be made by calling 479-783-2966. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes before each performance. Gala Tickets \$27. All other shows \$12.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call Feb. 3 - Feb. 7 for preferred seating. They can also reserve a General Admission seat for every Season Ticket they have. General Admission reservations will not be filled until Feb. 8.

Reminder: When you call to make a reservation, Dial 2.

Classic American Drama Opens Season 71

"Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes." — Chapter 2, Verse 15, Song of Solomon

A black-hearted leading lady, greedy, unscrupulous siblings, money, and Southern hospitality circa 1900 Alabama combine for a sparkling poisonous brew in the drama *The Little Foxes* opening at Fort Smith Little Theatre February 15. Director Jim Moody returns after a hiatus to helm this popular American drama by playwright Lillian Hellman.

Lillian Hellman was an American dramatist famous for her mastery of the "well-made" play. *The Little Foxes* premiered on Broadway in February 1939 starring Tallulah Bankhead and Patricia Collinge. The 1941 film, with a screenplay written by Hellman, was a famous vehicle for film actress Bette Davis. In 2016 actresses Laura Linney and Cynthia Nixon alternated in the roles of Regina Giddens and Birdie Hubbard on Broadway.

At FSLT, Cindy Clark leads the cast as Regina Hubbard Giddens, the discontented wife of the gentle, invalid Horace Giddens (Duff Taylor). Determined to go into business with her wealthy unscrupulous brothers, Ben (Bradley Kidder Jr.) and Oscar (Chris Cole), Regina sets out to enchant

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Director's Letter

The Little Foxes has been on my "to do" list for many years. My first encounter with the drama was the film starring Bette Davis, one of my favorite actresses. So much of the film is built on Ms. Davis' heartless performance. The character of Regina Hubbard Giddens is both fascinating and seemingly heartless.

Two years ago, the play crept back into my mind. Strong roles for women have influenced my directorial choices. At first, *The Little Foxes* seems centered on a malfunctioning marriage. On closer examination, the play is so much more. Reading the play this time, I found a strong undercurrent of an examination of current American culture. I realized that a play written in 1939 about a family fight over money could be more than relevant to the 21st century.

Auditions fulfilled my hopes. I am directing actors with whom I have worked previously: Cindy Clark, Duff Taylor, Bradley Kidder Jr., and Mike Southern. Tina Dale has been in several FSLT plays, but this is my first time to direct her. While Leah James and Clayton Hartwig have previously appeared once before on the FSLT stage, Chris Cole, and Rylan Price, are new to the FSLT stage. They have proven to be stellar choices. Their willingness to delve into all the levels of the script has been rewarding. This talented group is more than up to the challenge.

The set for this play is an integral part of the play. The design by Carson Dickson put a high level of art to be matched. The construction has mainly been in the capable hands of John-Mark Scales and Brian Lindon, who have done an excellent job.

I'm looking forward to presenting you this drama that begins FSLT's 2018 season. Enjoy!

- Jim Moody, Director



2017 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held on November 27, 2017 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Neal Goodwin, Susan Hickam, Carole Rogers, Deepu Thomas, and Suzanne Thomas. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Rikkee Workman-Black, Nathan Stockemer, and Eric Wells. The newly elected Board then met to elect officers for the coming year: Carole Rogers - President; Jill Ledbetter - Vice President; Neal Goodwin - Treasurer; Sherry Hester - Secretary.



The Little Foxes opens February 15

an affluent potential business partner, Mr. William Marshall (Mike Southern). When her efforts are thwarted, Regina turns her iron-will to manipulating the men in her life with dramatic results.

Tina Dale plays Regina's aristocratic sister-in-law Birdie Hubbard, while Carol Sikes plays Regina's charming daughter Alexandra. Rylan Price is Oscar's ne'er-do-well son Leo, while Leah James and Clayton Hartwig portray family retainers Addie and Cal.

Leading lady Cindy Clark says, "I love playing Regina. She is such a truly evil woman. I think our audiences will appreciate this classic American drama. It's very well written and sadly, the topic of greed is just as relevant today as it has always been."

Carol Sikes makes her first appearance at FSLT as Alexandra: "I was intrigued by this role because it shows the sweet, innocent nature of a young girl who begins to see the dark realities of the people closest to her. Eventually she begins to think and speak for herself."

Leah James as Addie returns to FSLT for the first time since her appearance in 2010's *Crowns*. "I really love this script," she says. "It's so relatable to today."



Veteran FSLT performer Duff Taylor agrees, "I hope the audience will recognize the timelessness of man's avarice, and see that greed knows no boundaries, neither through the passage of time nor the thickness of blood."

The talented cast is supported by an equally talented crew. Aaron Ray serves as Assistant Director while Jane Ann Short and Fran Thueson act as producers. Shanna Davis is the stage manager. The impressive two-story set was constructed by Gary Tipton, John-Mark Scales, Warren Flatte, Brian Lindon, Chris Pearson, and Carrie Clark. Sandra Slater is responsible for costumes; while Jeremy Marston, Nathan Stockemer, and Jennifer Roller handle lights and sound. Grayce DeWitt and Michael Richardson are responsible for set decoration. Laura Lewis, Kim Kidder, Karen Yada, and Carrie Clark make up the prop crew.

Gala opening is on February 15 at 7:30 p.m. with tickets priced at \$27 each. Evening performances continue February 16-17 and 21-24 at 7:30 p.m., while a Sunday matinee is scheduled for February 18 at 2 p.m. Tickets for regular performances are \$12 each. Call 479-783-2966 to make your reservations (beginning Saturday, February 3 for season ticket holders, and Thursday, February 8 for non-season ticket holders).



Bargains On The Back & Round of Applause

On the back of all seat tickets during 2018, you'll find coupons for two locally-owned, long-time supporters of FSLT, **Calico County** and **Golden Corral**. We don't tear our tickets so you can enjoy the savings. Also, we hope you'll join us in a round of applause for **Consolidated Printing** of Van Buren, who donated the printing of all our seat tickets again this year. This is a generous contribution for which we are very grateful!

Memorials Gratefully Received

A gift in memory of Kaye Birkhead was received from Neal Goodwin and Randy Pace. Donations from Steve and Paula Sharum were received in memory of Anne Hebert, Phanita Williams, Carl McCauley, and Kaye Birkhead. FSLT is very grateful for these thoughtful donations, and for the memories of these treasured members of our FSLT family.

Last Chance to Buy Season Tickets

2018 Season Tickets will be sold in the lobby before all performances of *The Little Foxes*. If you plan to buy your season ticket when you arrive to attend the show, please go to the Season Ticket booth **before** going to the Box Office window to pick up your seat assignments.

You can also purchase season tickets online, safely and securely, at fslt.org. (Please note that Paypal may require you to create an "account," but you can still use your debit or credit card for payment. Simply click: "Create a PayPal account.")

To The Rescue - Again

Once again, Mike Mulhern of **Connected Communications** deserves a round of applause. During our recent telecommunication service upgrade, Mike came swiftly to help with the installation. Thank you, Mike, for your continued support of FSLT!

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P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Mother Teresa is quoted as saying “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.” Well, “begin” is somewhat of an understatement of how we have started 2018 at FSLT. Our Board of Directors is jumping in with both feet to start this year in a really big way. We began 2018 by scheduling some big lighting and sound improvements that will be appreciated by patrons and volunteers alike. Watch for more details! In the meantime, we’re launching a terrific season jam-packed with 6 full-run productions plus 3 off-season shows. There’s blackmail, fantasy, zombies, a Fort Smith bicentennial portrayal of Belle Starr, fabulous music, and big belly laugh comedies – you’ll definitely want to have a Season Ticket! It will be less expensive than paying general admission, plus you’ll be able to enjoy the perks of being a patron.

Opening Night Season Tickets provide pre-show beverages and hors d’oeuvres and the same seats assigned for all full run productions. Our Regular Season Tickets offer awesome flexibility. For each production, just select from 7 performance dates (matinee and evening) and reserve a seat that fits your schedule. It’s perfect for busy people. Plus, Season Ticket patrons enjoy advanced, preferred seating by having 5 days to reserve your seat before general admission reservation requests are accepted.

Is it time for you to jump in with both feet this year? You could begin enjoying patron perks by buying a Season Ticket. You could go outside your comfort zone by auditioning or volunteering to help backstage. You could begin marketing your business by being an FSLT Show Sponsor. Not everyone has big talent or a big amount of time. But there are plenty of ways, big and small, for you to be a part of our community theatre. Who’s to argue with Mother Teresa? We only have today. Let us begin.

Next Up

Auditions for *Calendar Girls*, directed by Eric Wells, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 26. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, February 27. The cast calls for 4 males ages 20-50+ and 10 females ages 20-70+. Production dates are April 5-14. For more information, visit our website, www.fslt.org, or find us on Facebook.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before February 8 for reservations.